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# Byrd says mines talk a strikeout for Casey

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Many senators no longer support William Casey as CIA director after his "pathetic" Senate briefing on the Nicaraguan harbor mining, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic minority leader, said yesterday.

He said that Mr. Casey would have problems winning a confidence vote after his closed briefing Tuesday for senators on the administration's involvement in funding and providing advisors for anti-Sandinista guerillas.

"I think it was pathetic," Mr. Byrd said. Mr. Casey appeared on the Hill as part of an administration effort to head off a vote against the mining operation. The vote that evening, 84-12, went against the administration.

But Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican majority leader, disagreed. "I have no such complaint about the Casey briefing . . . . He was remarkably candid for a director of central intelligence," he said.

Is Mr. Baker satisfied with Mr. Casey? "I think so," he replied.

Mr. Byrd said that it was clear from the Casey briefing that "people on both sides of the aisle were not informed," and that this reflected a pattern by the CIA under Mr. Casey of not being forthcoming with Congress.

Mr. Byrd said that President Reagan, by approving the mining operations, "apparently . . . condoned an activity that violates international law."

Mr. Casey was confirmed in his post by a 93-0 vote, but yesterday Mr. Byrd said he was introducing legislation requiring that all the administration's high-level appointees, including Mr. Casey, undergo a second confirmation if Mr. Reagan is re-elected and carries them into his second term.

Sen. Baker said he has not decided whether to support Mr. Byrd's bill.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., said he thought Mr. Casey was performing his job "very, very poorly" and was "taking liberties that no other leader of the CIA has taken." The mining, Mr. O'Neill added, amounted to "terrorism at its worst."

House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, said he felt "betrayed" by the mining disclosures.

— Thomas D. Brandt